

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: None

Meeting opened: 1:03 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2013 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes; McCarthy seconded the motion; the vote to accept the minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

Beach Street: A site visit was completed to plan for the requested handicap parking space. Proper installation of the space is more complicated than originally thought because of the road slope, the proximity of the restaurant building to the street, the park entrance and the need for the sidewalk cutouts. Parisi questioned the possibility of using Chapter 90 funding due to the need for significant construction in the Millbrook Park entrance area. Further research is needed on funding sources prior to executing this project. The committee agrees to install a temporary handicap parking space by the stair entrance to Front Beach, across from Millbrook Park in the spring.

Stone Barn Lane: A site visit was completed. The Rockport Art Association entrance is on the street. A cautionary sign will be installed.

Summit Avenue: A site visit was completed to review the safety of the intersection of Summit Avenue and King Street. Currently the placement of the utility poles and the angle of the turn from Granite Street onto Summit Avenue create a difficult intersection. The committee will install cautionary signs by the crosswalk. The committee also plans to invite the school personnel to the next meeting to discuss the location of the bus stop in this area.

59-61 Main Street: A site visit was completed to review the parking situation. Parisi explained that visibility when exiting driveways all along Broadway and Main Street is problematic due to parking in the area. He asked the committee to clarify if the request for "Compact Car" parking should be dealt with on a case by case basis or a policy should be developed. The committee decided to review this issue to develop a policy for requests in the future. Currently, residents are encouraged to contact the police department when cars are parked too close to their driveway entrance and officers will be sent when resources are available.

Intersection of Martha's Lane and Jerdens Lane: Parisi recommended the installation of a "Stop" sign at this intersection. The committee agreed. McCarthy offered to have his department check the current "Stop" signs around town and a list of existing and recommended signs will be developed. Other recommended "Stop" signs include the intersections of King Street and Forest Street and Jewett Street and Main Street.

Sanders will bring the following recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for a vote for inclusion in the Traffic and Parking Regulations:

1. Updated "Stop" sign list.
2. Location of designated handicap parking spaces.

The Board of Selectmen will also be asked to address the request to move the CATA bus stop from Broadway to the Harvey Park area.

Winter Parking Ban: Parisi requested the committee review the current winter parking ban. He provided a letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen which recommended the Winter Parking Ban regulations. Sanders moved to support the letter, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously. The letter details the following changes: the ban expires on April 1st for the season; and the parking ban ends daily at 6 a.m. The Board of Selectmen votes annually on the winter parking ban. McCarthy explained that the Town does not have the technology to manage a "Code Red" alert during each storm; other towns including Essex and Ipswich continue to use a seasonal parking ban system too.

Parker Street: McCarthy reported the speed survey is complete; communication with Mass DOT is in progress.

Oakes Lane and Oak's Lane: The committee received a letter requesting a review the naming of these streets. A site visit will be scheduled. Sanders explained the process to rename at street involves a public hearing conducted by the Board of Selectmen and then the recommendation goes to the Town Meeting.

Solar Powered Driver Feedback Signs: Parisi will submit a request to the Capital budget committee for four signs. The current plan is to locate these signs at the following intersections: Doctor's Run and Granite Street, High Street and Main Street, Mt. Pleasant Street and Prospect Street; the fourth sign location to be determined.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.